AMENDMENTS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A gum packaging laminate comprising in order:

a metal foil;

a polymer layer;

a paper layer; ~~and~~

an ink layer;

an electron beam cured layer; and

a wax layer.

2. (Currently amended) The laminate of claim 1 ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the wax layer comprises paraffin wax. ~~disposed on the electron beam cured layer opposite the paper layer.~~

3. (Currently amended) The laminate of claim 1 ~~further comprising an~~ wherein the ink layer is surface printed on the paper layer using a gravure printing technique. ~~, the ink layer being sandwiched between the paper layer and the electron beam cured layer.~~

4. (Original) The laminate of claim 1 wherein the polymer layer comprises polyethylene.

5. (Original) The laminate of claim 1 wherein the electron beam cured layer is formed from a combination of oligomers and monomers.

6. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein the oligomer is an epoxy acrylate.

7. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein the monomer is an acrylate.

8. (Original) The laminate of claim 1 wherein the electron beam cured layer is cured by an electron beam having an energy of from about 100 keV to about 170 keV.

9. (Original) The laminate of claim 8 wherein the electron beam cured layer is cured by an electron beam having an energy of from about 125 keV to about 135 keV.

10. (Original) The laminate of claim 1 wherein the electron beam cured layer is cured by absorbing a dosage of from about 2.0 to about 5.0 MegaRads.

11. (Original) The laminate of claim 10 wherein the electron beam cured layer is cured by absorbing a dosage of from about 3.0 to about 4.0 MegaRads.

12. (Original) The laminate of claim 1 wherein the electron beam cured layer comprises slip agents, the slip agents being reacted-in.

13. (Currently amended) A gum package comprising a laminate, the laminate comprising in order:

a polymer layer;

an inorganic layer;

a bonding layer;

a paper layer; ~~and~~

an ink layer;

an electron beam cured coating; and

a wax layer.

14. (Original) The gum package of claim 13 wherein the polymer layer is polypropylene.

15. (Original) The gum package of claim 13 wherein the polymer layer is polyethylene terephthalate

16. (Original) The gum package of claim 13 wherein the polymer layer is metallized to produce the inorganic layer.

17. (Original) The gum package of claim 16 wherein the inorganic layer comprises aluminum.

18. (Original) The gum package of claim 13 wherein the inorganic layer comprises an oxide selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_x and SiO_x.

19. (Currently amended) The gum package of claim 13 wherein the bonding layer comprises an adhesive. ~~laminate further comprises ink printed on the paper layer, the ink being sandwiched between the paper layer and the electron beam curable layer.~~

20. (Currently amended) The gum package of claim 13 wherein the wax layer comprises carnauba wax. ~~laminate further comprises wax disposed on the electron beam cured layer opposite the paper layer.~~

21. (Original) The gum package of claim 13 wherein the electron beam cured layer is formed from an epoxy acrylate oligomer and an acrylate monomer.

22. (Original) The gum package of claim 13 wherein the electron beam cured layer further comprises slip agents, the slip agents being reacted-in.

26. (Currently amended) A gum package comprising:

a multi-layer laminate comprising a paper layer and a gas barrier layer;

a coating of ~~an~~ electron beam cured, crosslinked network of monomers and oligomers ~~coating~~ on the paper layer, the coating comprising fixed processing additives; and

wax disposed on the electron beam cured coating for sealing the gum package, wherein the fixed processing additives do not interfere with the sealing ability of the wax.

27. (Previously presented) The gum package of claim 26 wherein the fixed processing additives comprise a slip agent.

28. (Previously presented) A counterband for wrapping a plurality of individual sticks of chewing gum and for providing long term resistance to passage of gas and moisture, the counterband comprising in order:

a metal foil;

a polymer adhesion layer;

a paper layer;

ink surface printed on the paper layer opposite the polymer adhesion layer;

an electron beam cured layer coated and cured over the ink, the electron beam cured layer comprising slip agents that have become reacted-in during the curing process; and

wax deposited on the electron beam cured layer for sealing the counterband; wherein the reacted in slip agents do not interfere with the ability of the wax to seal the counterband.